

## Region 1

### **Chinese Business Leaders Visit Region 1**

On May 14, Region 1 hosted a delegation of Chinese business leaders from the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. RA Dunn and Region 1 staff provided presentations on the federal role in regional renewable energy in effort to help the leaders meet their objective of learning more about U.S. green energy.

## Region 5

### **Hot Topics:**

#### **EPA to Respond to City of Flint's Request for Intervention**

Key Message: Next week the Region expects to send letter urging the City and State to determine the most effective way to move forward with holding Flint Water Interagency Coordination Committee (FWICC) meetings.

On April 27, 2018, the city of Flint requested that EPA intervene in the state's decision to postpone the continuation of the state-led FWICC meetings. The city's request was in response to an April 20, 2018, notification from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality that future FWICC meetings would be postponed until the city's legal intentions were made clear.

## Region 6

### **Bird Creek, Osage County, Oklahoma**

DOJ will ask the Court to for a 90 day stay to allow settlement to continue. The Respondents continue to assess their technical path forward and the next technical call is scheduled for the week of May 21, 2018. The current Court deadline is June 4.

### **Monarch Waste Technologies, Nambe Pueblo, New Mexico**

Monarch Waste Technologies will not complete the required testing and report submittal by the May 19 deadline. EPA is working with the company to ensure it can come into compliance as soon as possible under the circumstances. Since the facility is located on the Nambe Pueblo, EPA will also be responsible for permitting the facility, in accordance with the NSPS Subpart Ec requirement for permitting such facilities.

## Region 8

### **Region 8 Issues SDWA Emergency Administrative Order (EAO) to Northern Cheyenne Tribe (Tribe)**

On May 16, 2018, EPA issued a 1431 Order in response to a potential imminent and substantial endangerment at Lame Deer Public Water System located in Montana. A waterline broke on May 15, 2018, and a large portion of the system, serving 3160 residents, is without water. The system issued an advisory to the homes impacted and is in the process of performing corrective actions with assistance from the IHS.

## Region 9

### Kilauea Volcano

With two FEMA mission support assignments, Region 9 is on the Big Island of Hawaii with staff and contractors, focused on air monitoring and associated data management. We are supported by Edison and ORD, and will likely be asked to expand the air-monitoring capacity. The County is trying to manage limited water supplies, curtailing some local business operations. FEMA has yet to secure an operations base on island with WI-FI, a critical next step in the response.

### Mexican Border

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board filed a Notice of Intent to Sue the International Boundary and Water Commission under the Clean Water Act, alleging permit violations at the International Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats and discharges flows from Tijuana, Mexico to the Pacific Ocean. Several San Diego County cities sent a similar Notice of Intent to Sue last September and filed a complaint in March 2018. The USBWC recently filed a motion to dismiss the cities' complaint.

### Guam

On Thursday, Guam Governor Eddie Calvo will meet with Acting RA Alexis Strauss on issues of environmental concern in Guam, including military build-up, water, and solid waste. His environment director will attend the PFOA/PFOS meeting in HQ.

## Region 10

### Stakeholder Meeting to Discuss Beaufort Sea Oil & Gas Exploration NPDES General Permit Reissuance (AK)

On May 22, EPA Region 10 staff will host a meeting in Anchorage with the regulated community to discuss the upcoming reissuance of the Beaufort Sea NPDES general permit for offshore oil and gas exploration. The purpose of the meeting is to (1) provide an overview of potential changes to the permit, (2) discuss the project timeline and opportunities for public engagement, and (3) confirm the accuracy of the assumptions (i.e. level of activity) that will inform the permit and environmental analyses. Confirmed attendees from the regulated community include: the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, ConocoPhillips, Eni Petroleum, and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation may also participate in this meeting.

### Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Meet at Yakama Nation (WA)

Region 10 Senior Tribal Policy Advisor, Wenona Wilson will participate in the Mid-Year Convention of ATNI on May 21-23, at Yakama Nation. ATNI, as a non-profit regional organization, provides a forum for member tribes to share information and work together to develop policy. The conventions are well attended by tribal leadership. Wenona has been asked to introduce herself and provide remarks during the Natural Resources Committee portion of the meeting.

## Office of Administration and Resources Management

### Early Employee Viewpoint Survey Results

As of May 16, 2018, EPA's agency-wide Employee Viewpoint Survey response rate was 22.1 percent, greater than the government-wide response rate of 17.7 percent. Due to an agency-wide server outage on May 1, the Office of Environmental Information estimates over 700 employees still have not received the survey. OARM and OEI are working with the Office of Personnel Management to resolve the issue.

**OARM Consolidates EPA Office Space**

This month, OARM is moving EPA functions within the Norwood office to the Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center facility in Cincinnati, OH. This consolidation will save the agency over \$663,000 annually in rent and also include savings from reduced security costs and improved efficiencies in other operations. While the staff transition is slated through this month, the decommissioning of the Norwood office will occur on August 31, 2018 when the lease ends.

**Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention****Methylene Chloride**

On Thursday, May 10, EPA announced a number of upcoming actions on methylene chloride, a chemical that can be used for paint stripping. EPA will be finalizing a January 2017 proposed rule prohibiting the consumer and commercial paint stripping uses for methylene chloride; OCSPP will send that finalized rulemaking to OMB shortly. Methylene chloride is also one of the first 10 chemicals selected for risk evaluation under the amended Toxic Substances Control Act; EPA announced that it will not re-evaluate the paint stripping uses of methylene chloride in those risk evaluations. EPA actions on methylene chloride continue to be of great interest to Congress and stakeholder groups.

**Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

- OCFO continues to coordinate with OCIR to review responses to House FY 2019 budget hearings Questions for the Record (QFRs) and will do the same for the SAC FY 2019 budget hearing transcript and QFRs once received.
- OCFO is developing plans for focused FY 2020 budget planning efforts to prepare for the FY 2020 budget submission due to OMB in September. OMB is expected to issue guidance in late June regarding budget targets. OCFO is in the process of scheduling briefings in the near future with the COO and DA.
- OCFO submitted EPA's draft FY 2018 second quarter Agency Priority Goal (APG) Action Plan updates to OMB on May 11 and expects to receive OMB comments this week. We will engage with programs, as needed, and follow up for any additional OPA review. Revised APG Action Plans that address any OMB comments are due to OMB on June 1. Target date for posting second quarter updates on publicly available website is June 14.
- OCIR and OCFO plan to brief the COO next week on a proposal for reframing the operational agency planning/implementation conveyed in National Program Guidance. The proposed approach is based upon discussions with the agency's Executive Management Council as well as the Environmental Council of States and the E-Enterprise Leadership Council.

Other

- OCFO is finalizing materials to reflect recent Deputy Administrator decisions on strategic review/risk assessment results for submission to OMB on May 21. These materials will support the OMB-EPA strategic review meeting now being scheduled for late June/July time frame.

**Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations**

- **May 18** – OW and OAR will provide an informational briefing call for Senator Collins and EPW majority staff on national mercury monitoring efforts.
- **May 21** – Congressional briefing update on Asian Carp with Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO)/R5, Fish and Wildlife Service, USACE

- **May 29** - The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) will have an introductory conference call-Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler to speak with members.

## Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

### Enforcement Priority Policy and Priorities Presentations

On Tuesday May 8, 2018, the Office of Civil Enforcement presented on recent cases, as well as enforcement policy and priorities at the ABA Section on Environment, Energy and Resources, Pesticides, Chemical Regulation and Right-to-Know Committee and CropLife America seminar on new developments in pesticide law and policy. The meeting included presentations by the EPA Office of Policy as well as representatives from agricultural pesticide manufacturing sector.

## Office of Policy

**Local Foods, Local Places:** On May 23, the Office of Community Revitalization, with USDA, CDC and the Delta Regional Authority, plan to announce 16 communities that will be receiving technical assistance through the Local Foods, Local Places program.

## Office of Research and Development

### Release of New EnviroAtlas Communities Data

EnviroAtlas is releasing fine-scale data and maps for 430 cities and towns centered on six U.S. urban areas. More information is on the [ [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-communities"](https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-communities) ] site and the EnviroAtlas [ [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-interactive-map"](https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-interactive-map) ]. EnviroAtlas is a web-based tool that combines maps, analysis tools, and interpretive information on ecosystem services. States, communities, and citizens can use this information in making the decisions that affect policies and planning in places where people are.

### National Tribal Public Health Summit

May 22-24, ORD will attend the Annual National Tribal Public Health Summit, hosted by the National Indian Health Board in Prior Lake, Minnesota. They will participate in a roundtable session, demo ORD tools, and discuss Tribal-focused research and technical projects.

## Office of Water

**Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl (PFAS) Leadership Summit** Next week, the EPA will host a national leadership summit to take action on PFAS. Currently over 200 participants representing states, tribes, federal partners and national organizations have confirmed attendance. The meeting will focus on setting priorities for identifying and solving challenges with PFAS in communities and communicating the risks associated with PFAS. The EPA will live stream a portion of the first day, including the Administrator's remarks. Following the Summit, the EPA will travel to states with communities impacted by PFAS to further engage on ways the Agency can best support work occurring at state, local and tribal levels.

**WIFIA** This week, the EPA announced the extension of the WIFIA Notice of Funding Availability from July 6<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. The notice of the extension is expected to publish in the Federal Register next week. OW, in coordination with OPA, continues outreach efforts to increase awareness of the WIFIA Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

